

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 58th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON STATE ADMINISTRATION

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN DEBBY BARRETT**, on March 6, 2003 at 8 A.M., in Room 455 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Debby Barrett, Chairman (R)
Rep. Dee Brown, Vice Chairman (R)
Rep. Larry Jent, Vice Chairman (D)
Rep. Norman Ballantyne (D)
Rep. Arlene Becker (D)
Rep. Sue Dickenson (D)
Rep. Carol Gibson (D)
Rep. Daniel S. Hurwitz (R)
Rep. Hal Jacobson (D)
Rep. Larry Lehman (R)
Rep. Ralph Lenhart (D)
Rep. Alan Olson (R)
Rep. Bernie Olson (R)
Rep. Don Roberts (R)
Rep. Clarice Schrumpf (R)
Rep. Frank Smith (D)
Rep. Pat Wagman (R)
Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy (D)

Members Excused: Rep. Cindy Younkin (R)

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Sheri Heffelfinger, Legislative Branch
Joan Reiman, Committee Secretary

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: SB 8, SB 17, SB 38, 2/25/2003
Executive Action: SB 17 and SB 38, BE CONCURRED IN

HEARING ON SB 38

Sponsor: SEN. DALE MAHLUM, SD 35

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

SEN. MAHLUM said this bill was requested by the Commissioner of Political Practices. Lines 22-23 provide for the state to save money by providing forms electronically. Upon request, paper copies will still be provided.

Proponents' Testimony: None

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

Dulcy Hubbert, Program Supervisor, Commissioner of Political Practices, stated they mail six or seven packets, with manuals, for each of some 1,500 candidates. Candidates will not be able to report electronically with this bill. She gave a copy of her testimony.

EXHIBIT (sth47a01)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

REP. HURWITZ asked if their computer system will be compatible with the Capitol's new system that will be installed sometime. She was not sure. REP. BALLANTYNE asked about line 19. The state will cover costs of paper copies if candidates want paper.

Closing by Sponsor:

The Sponsor closed.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 0 - 8.5}

HEARING ON SB 17

Sponsor: SEN. DAN MCGEE, SD 11

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

SEN. MCGEE said this bill addresses the situation that led to two special sessions because of effective dates. All legislation will be effective upon passage, unless noted otherwise.

Proponents' Testimony: None

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

REP. DICKENSON asked if it would be advisable to hold off on a bill's effective date if a court challenge was likely. SEN. MCGEE did not think so.

Closing by Sponsor: The sponsor closed.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 8.5 - 12}

HEARING ON SB 8

Sponsor: SEN. MIKE SPRAGUE, SD 6

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

SEN. SPRAGUE said this bill regards unclear constitutional authority of the size of the legislature. It is a complicated bill, and he wants to clarify the issue. He gave an exhibit which was associated with SB 9, which died. He did this to show how complicated this issue is, even when clarified by Legal Counsel.

EXHIBIT(sth47a02)

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 12 - 17.5}

Proponents' Testimony: None

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

REP. BECKER asked if the bill would submit to the voters the right to authorize the legislature to adjust its own size. SEN. SPRAGUE agreed it did. REP. HURWITZ asked about the bill that would have lengthened terms. It was killed. REP. LEHMAN asked if half of the Senate would be elected every two years. SEN. SPRAGUE agreed it would. REP. SMITH asked if this bill affects redistricting. The answer was no. REP. SMITH asked when SB 9 was killed, what the vote was. Sponsor said about 80%.

There used to be only 13 counties, but they get federal funds, and are unlikely to allow adjustment now. **REP. GIBSON** asked if this bill would allow the legislature to adjust the size up or down by 20%. It would have to be passed by the voters first.
{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 17.5 - 33.9}

Closing by Sponsor:

The Sponsor asked for someone to carry this bill.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 17

Motion/Vote: **REP. OLSON** moved that SB 17 BE CONCURRED IN.
Motion carried 19-0. **REP. YOUNKIN** voted by proxy.

Motion/Vote: **REP. OLSON** moved that SB 17 BE ADOPTED for THE
CONSENT CALENDAR. Motion carried 19-0. **REP. YOUNKIN** voted by
proxy.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 38

Motion: **REP. OLSON** moved that SB 38 BE CONCURRED IN.

Discussion:

CHAIRMAN BARRETT said it saves money for the state.

Vote: Motion carried 18-0 with **REP. BECKER** voting no. **REP.**
YOUNKIN voted by proxy.

Discussion:

REP. BECKER asked if she could change her vote. **Ms. Heffelfinger**
said they could reconsider.

Motion: **REP. OLSON** moved TO RECONSIDER SB 38.

Discussion:

REP. GIBSON said perhaps this should be discussed on the floor.
REP. OLSON said the less discussion, the faster they can get
through the paper. Parties put on workshops to tell candidates
what forms they need. **REP. DICKENSON** asked if they can report
electronically. **CHAIRMAN BARRETT** said, "No," and added that
there are seven major mailings, costing postage and paper.

REP. LEHMAN said this bill would have simplified things for him; he was in Arizona when he filed.

Vote: Motion carried 18-1 with **REP. WAGMAN** voting no. **REP. YOUNKIN** voted by proxy.

Motion/Vote: **REP. OLSON** moved that SB 38 BE CONCURRED IN. Motion carried 19-0. **REP. YOUNKIN** voted by proxy.

Motion/Vote: **REP. OLSON** moved that SB 38 BE MOVED TO THE CONSENT CALENDAR. Motion carried 19-0. **REP. YOUNKIN** voted by proxy.

CHAIRMAN BARRETT said they would not meet Mondays, and would start at 9 a.m. until the workload picks up. She asked **REP. WAGMAN** to read SB 8 and report back to committee.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 8:45 A.M.

REP. DEBBY BARRETT, Chairman

JOAN REIMAN, Secretary

DB/JR

EXHIBIT (sth47aad)